

In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/043,077

Confirmation No. 6614

Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon, communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via the vehicle data communications bus, and cooperating with said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user,

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communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via said data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned, and causing the at least one original equipment icon to generate an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

19. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the at least one original equipment icon comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with

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the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

Claims 24-29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

- a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

- a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon and cooperating with said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

- communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via the data communications bus,

- learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

- communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via the vehicle data communications bus

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to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

31. (Canceled).

32.. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one original equipment icon comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 33-38 (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for

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progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

43. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

44. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.

45. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

Claims 46-56 (Canceled).

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57. (Previously presented) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the method comprising:

sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and

using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon and cooperating with the biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon via the vehicle data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein the at least one original equipment icon

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comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 60-63 (Canceled).

64. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.